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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for providing a platform-independent audio/video service to a plurality of users over a packet-switched network. Audio/video signals are sent to a remote user where they are read using a sequence of processing operations that are independent of the remote user's processing unit. In other embodiments, the processing operations are comprised in a web browser or in hardware equipment which have as their main function the provision of the audio/video service. Also, other embodiments include an audio/video mailbox service that uses the foregoing audio/video service.